

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A steering system for an outboard motor mounted on a stern of a boat and including an outboard motor main unit having an internal combustion engine at its upper portion and a propeller with a rudder at its lower portion powered by the engine  
5 to propel and steer the boat, comprising:

a mounting unit mounting the outboard motor main unit on the stern of the boat and having at least a swivel shaft connected to the propeller to turn the propeller relative to the boat, and a swivel case rotatably accommodating the swivel shaft;

10 a vibration attenuator installed at a first connecting portion connecting the outboard motor main unit and the mounting unit and attenuating vibration of the outboard motor main unit to be transmitted to the mounting unit by causing the outboard motor main unit to displace relative to the mounting unit;

15 an actuator rotating the swivel shaft to turn the propeller relative to the boat, the actuator having a main body and an output end to be movable from the main body, one of the main body and the output end of which being connected to the outboard motor main unit at a second connecting portion, whilst other of the main body and the output end of which being connected to the mounting unit at a third connecting portion; and

20 a displacement absorber installed at least one of the second connecting portion and the third connecting portion and absorbing the displacement of the outboard motor main unit relative to the mounting unit.

25 2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the displacement absorber comprises an elastic member.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein the displacement absorber

comprises a spring.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of a first member  
5 fastened to the outboard motor main unit and at least one of the output end and the  
main body of the actuator and a second member fastened to the mounting unit and at  
least one of the output end and the main body of the actuator are formed with a gap  
therebetween that acts as the displacement absorber.

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5. A system according to claim 1, wherein the first connecting portion  
comprises an upper side connecting portion located at an upper position of the  
mounting unit and a lower side connecting portion located at a lower position of the  
mounting unit such that the displacement absorber is each installed at the upper side  
15 connecting portion and the lower side connecting portion, and the actuator is located  
at a position midway of the upper side connecting portion and the lower side  
connecting portion in such a manner that the second connecting portion and the third  
connecting portion are located at the position midway of the upper side connecting  
portion and the lower side connecting portion such that an amount of the displacement  
20 decreases.

6. A steering system for an outboard motor mounted on a stern of a boat and  
including an outboard motor main unit having an internal combustion engine at its  
25 upper portion and a propeller with a rudder at its lower portion powered by the engine  
to propel and steer the boat, comprising:

a mounting unit mounting the outboard motor main unit on the stern of the  
boat and having at least a swivel shaft connected to the propeller to turn the propeller

relative to the boat, and a swivel case rotatably accommodating the swivel shaft;

a vibration attenuator installed at a first connecting portion connecting the outboard motor main unit and the mounting unit and attenuating vibration of the outboard motor main unit to be transmitted to the mounting unit by causing the outboard motor main unit to displace relative to the mounting unit;

an actuator rotating the swivel shaft to turn the propeller relative to the boat, the actuator having a main body and an output end to be movable from the main body, one of the main body and the output end of which being connected to the outboard motor main unit at a second connecting portion, whilst other of the main body and the output end of which being connected to the mounting unit at a third connecting portion; and

displacement absorbers installed at the second connecting portion and the third connecting portion and absorbing the displacement of the outboard motor main unit relative to the mounting unit.

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7. A system according to claim 6, wherein the displacement absorbers comprise elastic members.

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8. A system according to claim 6, wherein the displacement absorbers comprise springs.

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9. A system according to claim 6, wherein a first member fastened to the outboard motor main unit and at least one of the output end and the main body of the actuator and a second member fastened to the mounting unit and at least one of the output end and the main body of the actuator are formed with gaps therebetween that

act as the displacement absorbers.

10. A system according to claim 6, wherein the first connecting portion  
5 comprises an upper side connecting portion located at an upper position of the  
mounting unit and a lower side connecting portion located at a lower position of the  
mounting unit such that the displacement absorber is each installed at the upper side  
connecting portion and the lower side connecting portion, and the actuator is located  
at a position midway of the upper side connecting portion and the lower side  
10 connecting portion in such a manner that the second connecting portion and the third  
connecting portion are located at the position midway of the upper side connecting  
portion and the lower side connecting portion such that an amount of the displacement  
decreases.